

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND  
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MARCH 24, 2009

On November 14, 2008, the Sayre Fire devastated the Oakridge Mobile Home Park in Sylmar, destroying more than 500 homes and displacing thousands of residents and their families. During the fire, police officers thought they had successfully evacuated the park only to learn from a local nurse that a number of seniors with health issues were still in their mobilehomes. The seniors were ultimately saved as fire overtook the mobilehome park, but it was only through the courageous efforts of first responders that everyone was able to get out of the park safely. In the Marek fire a month earlier, near Lake View Terrace, 38 structures in the Sky Terrace Mobile Lodge were destroyed. In 2007, 100 of the 130 homes at the Barrett Mobilehome Park, 35 miles east of San Diego, were lost due to fire, and in Northern San Diego County at the Valley Oaks Mobile Home Park, 106 homes were lost as the Rice Canyon fire swept through the area.

Southern California has long been the mecca for mobile home parks, providing homes for retirees and seniors, along with many working families. According to the Senate Select Committee on Mobile and Manufactured Homes there are 4,822 mobilehome parks in California, with an estimated 850,000 residents. Los Angeles

MOTION

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County ranks first amongst counties with 644 mobilehome parks containing 48,683 homes. Many of these mobilehome parks are situated in urban areas near wildlands and in rural areas where the threat of fire is most severe, and as recent events have shown, they are very vulnerable to fast moving wildfires and highlight the critical need for emergency preparedness in mobilehome parks.

Section 18603 of the California Health and Safety Code specifies that in every mobilehome park or manufactured home community there shall be a person available who can be contacted and is responsible for, and who shall reasonably respond in a timely manner to, emergencies concerning the operation and maintenance of the park. The Code also requires that parks with 50 or more units have a person who resides in the park and knows the emergency procedures for the utility systems and common facilities owned and controlled by the park. This section, however, does not require an emergency preparedness plan, but rather gives park management the option to adopt one.

SB23 (Padilla) would amend the Health and Safety Code to require the operator of every mobilehome park or manufactured home community to develop and implement an emergency and fire safety plan. The plan must be designed in accordance with requirements promulgated by the State Fire Marshal and the Office of Emergency Services and must include procedures to identify and assist residents with disabilities and other health problems. The bill would also require appropriate emergency services training for park or community managers and onsite staff, and would require that copies of the plan be provided to the tenants and posted in a conspicuous place. SB23 is supported by the California Fire Chiefs Association, the California Congress of Seniors, and the California Commission on Aging.

Passage of SB23 will help ensure a greater measure of safety for the affordable housing that mobilehome parks/manufactured home communities have come to represent for seniors and working families;

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the County express its support of SB23 and direct its legislative representatives to actively promote its successful passage into law; and

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Chief Executive Officer be directed to send a five-signature letter to the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee urging passage of SB23 for the protection of mobilehome residents throughout California.

SN/ABK: SB23 Mobilehome Parks' Safety